G. R. S. IX-5]

Previous references.
Lancy 28-21 (884

File No. 28-21

1922.

Serial Nos. 884

(Sanitary)

Later references.
Lan 28-21 (586) May 22
Lan 11-25 (5-7)
" 11-25 (10-13)
" 90-25 (1-5)
" 82-29 (1 to 7)
" 7-37 (1-4)

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

P-5
E

Serial Nos. 384.

Part B for February 1922.

SUBJECT.

Proposal to give wide publicity to the memo re action to be taken by municipal and Local Bodies for improving badly ventilated houses in Urban and Rural Areas.

To The Compiler, Mysore Gazette.
No. L 4711 dt 18.2.22.
Requests publication of the memo.

21.2.22

WD 1888—GPB—16,826—23-7-21

Sany 28-21-3

No. C 455-A
Enc.

33814

OFFICE OF THE SANITARY COMMISSIONER
WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF MYSORE

Bangalore, dated 10th February *192* 2

GEN. & REV. SEC. 11 FEB 1922

REVENUE & JUDICIAL OFFICE L 5253 11 FEB 1922 LOCAL BRANCH.

From
A. K. PANI, ESQ., D. P. H., Etc.,
Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of Mysore, Bangalore.

To
C. Venkata Rao, Esq., B.A.,
Secretary to the Government of Mysore,
Revenue Department, B a n g a l o r e.

SIR,

With reference to your Memo No. L. 3950-60/San. 28-21-2 dated the 10th January 1922 forwarding copy of letter No. C.1455 dated the 2nd December 1921, to the Presidents of Municipalities and District Boards for necessary action, I have the honor to request the favor of being supplied with twenty printed copies for distribution to the Officers of this Department. I propose, in case you see no objection, to forward a copy to each of the Editors of the local Kannada and English News papers with a view to educate the public on this important subject.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant.

A. K. Pani
Sanitary Commissioner.

WD 0245—GPB—6,00,000—14-7-16—S.

191

From
The Sanitary Commissioner
in Mysore.

To
The Rev. Secretary to
Government.

Dated 10/2/22.

Despatched 10/2/22.

Received

General No. C 455—4

No.

Enclosure No.

Requesting to be supplied with 20 printed copies of the Rev. Secretary's memo No. L.3950-60 ~~xxxxxx~~ San. 28-21-2 dated the 10th January 1922.

G.R.S. III—3]

Routine Notes.

[To be used only for notes, requisitions, etc., not intended for permanent record.]

Subd. 150 Copies of the letter & memo were multigraphed & out of these, 130 Copies having been despatched, only 10 Copies are remaining. The Sanitary Officers in the Districts can take Copies from the Deputy Commissioners, to whom one or two Copies have been sent in excess. If any 5 Copies will be sent to the Sanitary Commissioner & he will be informed as stated above & the remaining 5 Copies will be sent to the Press Room.

JHS 14/2/20

Yes; also a copy sent for inclusion in the Monthly Progs Volume. & another for publication in the Blue Book Journal

14/2

and a third for publication in the English & Kannada Gazettes.

N.B.—Should routine notes be written on small slips, the notes must be copied, or slips pasted on this form.

5-285

G.R.S. III—31

Routine Notes.

[To be used only for notes, requisitions, etc., not intended for permanent record.]

Subd with a draft

Issue

To The Compiler
Mysore Gazette.
No L 4711 Sf 1912
Request to publish
the letter of the Secy Comm
for the information
of the public.

To The Secy Comm
No L 4712 Sf 1912
Copy of the above.

N.B.—Should routine notes be written on small slips, the notes must be copied or slips pasted on this form.

G. R. S. VI—G/32]

SUBJECT.....

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Diary No. of letter replied to 5285

Section Sanl.

File No. 28—21

Serial No 47

General and Revenue Secretariat.

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Memorandum.

No. L. 4711 / Enc one.

Date of issue 18-2-22

Signed by Mr. D.C.S.

Action to be taken by municipal and local bodies for improving badly ventilated houses in urban and rural areas.

To the accompanying letter received from the Sanitary Commissioner, Mysore in the matter of improving badly ventilated houses in the State is forwarded for general information. Copies of the letter have been separately forwarded to the Presidents of Municipalities and District Boards for necessary action. By order

16/2

Copy to the Sanitary Compiler, Mysore Gazette for kindly publishing

over.

5)

II

Publishing in part ~~one~~ of all papers
in English and Kannada
Gazette and including with the
Monthly proceedings Volume
and forwarding 25 Copies thereof
to the Office & 100 Copies to the
Office of the Sanitary Commissioner

[illegible]

[illegible]

Dr. Revsley to Govt

Memo [illegible]

[illegible] of Notification & Forwarded
[illegible] Complete for Sanitary Comm
[illegible] to the letter No C455
[illegible]

List of enclosures.

[illegible]

Dr. Revsley to Govt

Copy to Translation Section
& Press Room

Copied by

Examined by

(6)

GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT

No. L. 3950-60 dated 10.1.22

Jan 29-21-2

Memo.

The accompanying letter No. C.455 dated the 2nd December 1921 from the Sanitary Commissioner in Mysore is forwarded, with compliments, to the Presidents of Municipalities and District Boards for necessary action.

By Order,
C. VENKATA RAO,
Secretary to Government
Revenue Department.

Letter No. C. 455 dated 2nd December 1921 from the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of Mysore.

I have the honor to bring to the notice of Government a remediable defect most commonly met with in houses in all the towns in the State, which calls for early action. It is to some extent true that in the larger towns at any rate, a distinct improvement has in recent years been perceptible in the type and sanitary conditions of dwellings, as a result of the painful experience induced by the devastating epidemics of plague since its first appearance in 1898. The policy initiated by Government with regard to the abolition of congested areas and the opening out of extensions, certainly largely contributed to this change. But in spite of an improvement in the trend in this direction, the fact remains as true to-day as it did prior to 1898, that the majority of houses are "unfit for human habitation"

2. Every one is familiar with the type of a common dwelling house in a town. It is usually a low structure, practically shut out to external light and air – a veritable box with compartments. In the larger houses all of the interior that meets the eye is the door-way with a long line of dark apartments stretching behind it. I do not propose to touch upon the structural defects and the general insanitary conditions resulting in these houses. I wish only to lay stress on one fundamental defect – absence of light and air.

3. "The importance of fresh air" is a hackneyed expression, but I fear its full significance is hardly, if ever, realised. The history of the last pandemic of influenza seems to me to afford in a striking manner proof of the part played by "fresh air" in the causation of disease. As is well-known, the incidence of influenza was relatively less severe in the Bangalore and Mysore Cities and the case-mortality also was lower than in mofussil towns and villages. Other considerations apart, this difference is largely attributable to the very much better conditions of house-ventilation obtaining

in these cities. Taking a more recent example, that of Tiptur, there was no reason, why when epidemic influenza was absent from the rest of the State, the town should have suffered severely, accounting for as many as 250 attacks. The bad housing conditions prevalent in this town, with the marked absence of ventilation in the houses, undoubtedly kept up the epidemic. Ill-ventilated houses predisposed to influenza, probably because of the additional opportunities of infection that occur in such places.

4. But influenza is only one of the many diseases that find a ready soil in ill-ventilated houses. Pneumonia, always most fatal in overcrowded and unclean places, tuberculosis in all its forms, a lowered vitality and a lowered resistance to disease are among the other evils that result from want of fresh air. It has been ascertained by experiment that the air of a poor cottage with poor ventilation was able to preserve unchanged the virulence of tuberculous sputum for two or three months at least but the same sputum exposed for less than two days in a well-lighted and well-ventilated house entirely lost the power of communicating the disease to guinea pigs by inoculation. Apart from the direct effects of absence of ventilation and light on the life of pathogenic organisms there is no doubt that defective light and air tend to devitalise the occupants of such houses and render them more ready victims of infection.

5. The factors inimical to the health of the adults are equally dangerous to the infant, to the young child and to the child attending schools. Bad housing conditions are thus also responsible for a high infantile mortality.

6. It will be clear that the improvement of badly ventilated houses is a matter calling for early action by all local bodies. It is a duty which is certainly more important than the preservation of cleanliness of streets and the maintenance of external sanitation in the local areas.

7. Government may not be unaware that while I was Health Officer, Mysore City, I arranged to fix over 7,000 windows to ill-ventilated houses in the several parts of the City, in the course of about six months. This was done without any aid by the Municipal Council and without any special funds placed at my disposal. Windows of different sizes were obtained from one of the local contractors and stocked. The Sanitary Inspectors made out a list of the houses that were badly in need of windows. I visited the houses and advised the occupants to have a certain number of windows fixed, offering to give them the windows, subject to adjustment of cost later on. The offer was, as a rule, readily accepted and there was little or no trouble in recovering the amounts for payment to the Contractor. There is no doubt, that this measure is bound to have had an appreciable effect on the general public health of the localities, which can be gauged only after some time. I have already commenced to introduce the above improvement in Bangalore City and expect a large number of windows to be inserted soon under my personal supervision and responsibility.

8. During my inspections of towns during the last two and a half years, I have been endeavouring to enlist the active consideration of the Municipal Councils in regard to this very important matter. The results so far have been very

encouraging. The Municipal Councils of Tiptur, Chamarajanagar, Davangere and Malur have cordially responded and already a number of windows have been secured by the Municipalities of Chamarajanagar and Malur. The measure has also met with public appreciation and a few influential gentlemen have voluntarily come forward with offers to give an advance in the form of loan, to informal working Committees of the Councils, to meet the initial cost of windows. Nevertheless, it is essential for successful work, that the procedure should receive the approval of Government and be placed on a recognised basis.

9. To the possible objection that the owners of houses may legally be required by the Municipal Councils to insert windows to ill-ventilated houses, I may say that no section of the Regulation authorises such procedure. I am insistently bringing to the notice of the Councils the necessity for strictly applying the health clauses of the Municipal Regulation with a view to secure sanitary improvement and have issued detailed practical instructions on the subject. But this matter of inserting windows cannot be dealt with in the same manner, although in importance it far outweighs every other improvement provided for in the Municipal Regulation. Hence the necessity for special action in this matter.

10. With a view to facilitate work, I would recommend that Government may be pleased to authorise local bodies to draw an advance out of their funds of a sum not exceeding Rs.200 in the case of the smaller Municipalities and Rs.400 in the case of larger ones, for purchase of ready-made windows. The windows will be issued to persons who are advised to improve ventilation in their houses and the cost will be recovered either in a lumpsum or in two or three monthly easy instalments, at the discretion of the Municipal Council. The chief merit of the scheme is that windows will be carried to the very doors of the people, which is a very important consideration. Very often, it is not the apathy of the people that stands in the way of effecting improvements but the lack of practical facilities such as the one now suggested. By the local bodies ordering for a number of windows to be made at a time, the cost is reduced to a minimum and the owners of houses are saved the trouble of procuring the necessary timber, bars and above all, workmen to make the windows.

11. It is hardly necessary to say that the initial advance would just enable the work to be started and may not cover the cost of providing *all* the ill-ventilated houses in the area with windows. The local bodies may therefore, after recouping the previous advance either partly or fully be empowered to draw fresh advances as frequently as necessary according to the actual demand that exists for additional supply of windows. But the total amount outstanding at any time need not exceed the minimum proposed above.

12. I request very early sanction to this proposal.

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GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE,

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT,

Dated, Bangalore 16th Dec 1922

No. 4711 Sany. 28. 21-4

Action to be taken by Municipal and Local Bodies for improving badly ventilated houses in urban and rural areas.

NOTIFICATION.

MEMORANDUM.

The accompanying letter received from the Sanitary Commissioner in Mysore in the matter of improving badly ventilated houses in the State is published for general information. Copies of the letter have been separately forwarded to the Presidents of Municipalities and District Boards for necessary action.

By Order,

for Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department.

To

The Compiler, Mysore Gazette, for kindly publishing in Part II of the Mysore Gazette in English and Kannada and including in the monthly proceedings volume and forwarding 25 copies thereof to this office and 100 copies to the Office of the Sanitary Commissioner in Mysore.

REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

No. E. 4711--San. 28-21-4, dated 18th February 1922.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY MUNICIPAL AND LOCAL BODIES FOR IMPROVING BADLY VENTILATED HOUSES IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS.

Memorandum.

The accompanying letter received from the Sanitary Commissioner in Mysore in the matter of improving badly ventilated houses in the State is published for general information. Copies of the letter have been separately forwarded to the Presidents of Municipalities and District Boards for necessary action.

By Order,
C. VENKATA RAO,
Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department.

Letter No. C. 455, dated 2nd December 1921, from the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of Mysore.

I have the honour to bring to the notice of Government a remediable defect most commonly met with in houses in all the towns in the State, which calls for early action. It is to some extent true that in the larger towns at any rate, a distinct improvement has in recent years been perceptible in the type and sanitary conditions of dwellings, as a result of the painful experience induced by the devastating epidemics of plague since its first appearance in 1898. The policy initiated by Government with regard to the abolition of congested areas and the opening out of extensions, certainly largely contributed to this change. But in spite of an improvement in the trend in this direction, the fact remains as true to-day as it did prior to 1898, that the majority of houses are "unfit for human habitation".

2. Every one is familiar with the type of a common dwelling house in a town. It is usually a low structure, practically shut out to external light and air—a veritable box with compartments. In the larger houses all of the interior that meets the eye is the door-way with a long line of dark apartments stretching behind it. I do not propose to touch upon the structural defects and the general insanitary conditions resulting in these houses. I wish only to lay stress on one fundamental defect—absence of light and air.

3. "The importance of fresh air" is a hackneyed expression, but I fear its full significance is hardly, if ever, realised. The history of the last pandemic of influenza, seems to me to afford in a striking manner proof of the part played by "fresh air" in the causation of disease. As is well-known, the incidence of influenza, was relatively less severe in the Bangalore and Mysore Cities and the case-mortality also was lower than in mofussil towns and villages. Other considerations apart, this difference is largely attributable to the very much better conditions of house-ventilation obtaining in these cities. Taking a more recent example, that of Tiptur, there was no reason, why when epidemic influenza was absent from the rest of the State, the town should have suffered severely, accounting for as many as 250 attacks. The bad housing conditions prevalent in this town, with the marked absence of ventilation in the houses, undoubtedly kept up the epidemic. Ill-ventilated houses predisposed to influenza, prabably because of the additional opportunities of infection that occur in such places.

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12. I request very early sanction to this proposal.